

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 783

AN ACT

To modify the boundary of Mesa Verde National Park, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Mesa Verde National
3 Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

6 (1) on June 29, 1906, Mesa Verde National
7 Park was established as the first national park in
8 the United States to preserve the works of human-
9 ity;

10 (2) on September 6, 1978, Mesa Verde Na-
11 tional Park became the first World Heritage Site
12 designated in the United States; and

13 (3) Mesa Verde National Park protects some of
14 the best preserved and notable archeological sites of
15 the ancient Puebloan culture that flourished in the
16 southwestern United States from approximately
17 600–1300, including the elaborate stone villages in
18 the sheltered alcoves of the canyon walls referred to
19 as “cliff dwellings”.

20 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

21 (1) to modify the boundary of Mesa Verde Na-
22 tional Park—

23 (A) to protect the archeological sites lo-
24 cated on property adjacent to the Park bound-
25 ary;

1 (B) to extend and expand the knowledge
2 and understanding of the ancient Puebloan cul-
3 ture, a major influence in the development of
4 the southwestern United States;

5 (C) to protect from potential development
6 the scenic and biological value of the pinyon-ju-
7 niper covered hills that—

8 (i) border the Park; and

9 (ii) are in full view of the Park en-
10 trance road; and

11 (D) to protect the largest recorded colony
12 of the globally imperiled Gray's Townsend
13 Daisy, to ensure continuation of a major wild-
14 life corridor, and to protect important habitat
15 for wildlife; and

16 (2) to provide greater opportunities to visitors,
17 researchers, and surrounding communities to under-
18 stand and appreciate the natural environment of
19 Mesa Verde and the contributions of the ancient
20 Puebloan culture to the region by providing the land
21 required to construct a contemporary museum collec-
22 tions storage facility and visitor orientation center.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-
2 titled “Mesa Verde National Park Proposed Bound-
3 ary Adjustment”, numbered 307/80,180, and dated
4 March 1, 2007.

5 (2) PARK.—The term “Park” means the Mesa
6 Verde National Park in the State of Colorado.

7 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
8 the Secretary of the Interior.

9 **SEC. 4. MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK.**

10 (a) ACQUISITION OF LAND.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may acquire
12 the land or an interest in the land described in sub-
13 section (b) for addition to the Park.

14 (2) MEANS.—An acquisition of land under
15 paragraph (1) may be made by donation, purchase
16 from a willing seller with donated or appropriated
17 funds, or exchange.

18 (b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in
19 subsection (a)(1) is the approximately 360 acres of land
20 adjacent to the Park, as generally depicted on the map.

21 (c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file
22 and available for inspection in the appropriate offices of
23 the National Park Service.

1 (d) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The boundary of
2 the Park shall be revised to reflect the acquisition of the
3 land under subsection (a).

4 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall admin-
5 ister any land or interest in land acquired under sub-
6 section (a)(1) as part of the Park in accordance with the
7 laws (including regulations) applicable to the Park.

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
10 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives October 22,
2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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